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166839286

TITLE: SUBJECT: COMPLEX MATRIX OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO EXPAND  
IN MEDELLIN

ORIGDATE: 199006262220

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 10042

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PTER, PINS, PHUM, CO

SUBJECT: COMPLEX MATRIX OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO EXPAND  
IN MEDELLIN

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. INCIDENTS OF SUSPECTED NARCO VIOLENCE AGAIN CENTERED ON MEDELLIN THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 22-25. THESE INCLUDED THE MASSACRE BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN OF 19 PATRONS AT A RESORT AREA TAVERN IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF MEDELLIN, THE DEACTIVATION OF A 120 KILO CARBOMB, AND THE ASSASSINATION OF SEVEN POLICEMEN.

3. MOST NARCOTERRORIST VIOLENCE SINCE THE MAY 27 ELECTIONS HAS OCCURRED IN MEDELLIN, WHERE ASSASSINATIONS OF POLICEMEN AND MASSACRES OF CIVILIANS STILL CONTINUE. SO FAR THIS YEAR, HOMICIDES IN MEDELLIN HAVE REACHED A RECORD HIGH (FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD) OF 2,784, MEANING THAT IN MEDELLIN 16 VIOLENT DEATHS OCCUR EVERY 24 HOURS. OF THE 319 POLICEMEN KILLED IN 1990 IN COLOMBIA, 153 HAVE BEEN KILLED IN MEDELLIN. THIS INCREASE IN VIOLENCE HAS PROMPTED THE MILITARIZATION OF MEDELLIN, A MEASURE DESIGNED BOTH TO CONTROL THE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION AND TO PUT PRESSURE DIRECTLY ON THE CARTEL.

4. AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE MEDELLIN VIOLENCE RELEASED TO THE PRESS BY THE JUDICIAL AND INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (DIJIN) SPECULATES THAT THE SOME OF THE "STREETCORNER" MASSACRES MAY HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY NARCO CAPO PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA. THE REPORT STATES THAT ESCOBAR HAS APPARENTLY UNLEASHED A MAJOR PURGE OF ELEMENTS WITHIN HIS RANKS WHOM HE CONSIDERS UNRELIABLE. A SECOND FACTOR, AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE DIJIN REPORT, IS A

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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1

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SCORE-SETTLING CAMPAIGN AMONG THE GANGS OF THUGS WHO INFEST THE MEDELLIN BARRIOS. THE REPORT ALSO REITERATES THE SPECULATION THAT A THIRD CAUSE OF THE CIVILIAN MASSACRES MAY BE THE "EXISTENCE OF AT LEAST TWO SELF-DEFENCE ORGANIZATIONS COMPOSED OF BOTH CIVILIANS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE POLICE" WHO ARE OUT TO "CLEAN UP" THE MEDELLIN BARRIOS. IN REITERATING THIS THEORY, THE REPORT NOTES THAT PRIOR TO SEVERAL STREETCORNER MASSACRES IN MEDELLIN, THE GUNMEN IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS POLICE AND FRISKED THE VICTIMS BEFORE SHOOTING THEM.

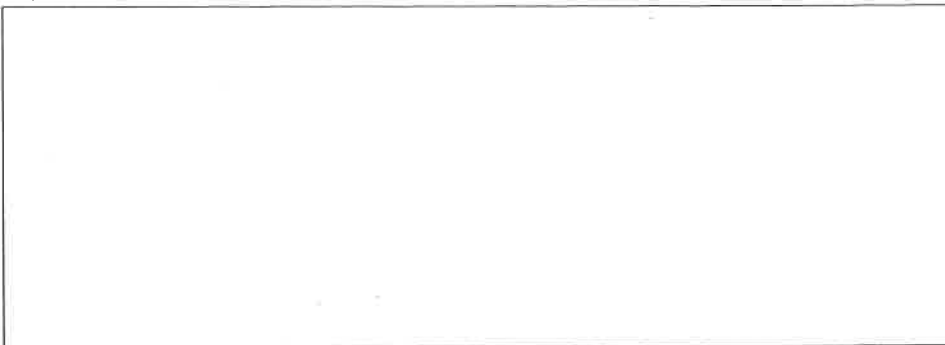
5. COMMENT: THE KILLING OF THE 19 TAVERN PATRONS JUNE 24 PUZZLES AUTHORITIES AND DOES NOT FIT INTO ANY OF THE DIJIN'S THEORIES ON MEDELLIN'S CURRENT SPATE OF VIOLENCE. THE TAVERN MASSACRE IS A DEPARTURE FROM THE M.O. THAT IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS CHARACTERIZED THE STREETCORNER KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS. IT OCCURRED IN A FASHIONABLE AREA OF HEAVILY MILITARIZED ENVIGADO (A SATELLITE SUBURB OF MEDELLIN) AND NOT IN THE BENIGHTED "COMUNAS" SECTORS PERIPHERAL TO MEDELLIN. ALSO, MOST OF THE 19 VICTIMS WERE YOUNG SCIONS OF WELL-OFF FAMILIES AND NOT COMUNA RESIDENTS, ALTHOUGH THE GUNMEN ALSO KILLED SEVERAL TAVERN WAITERS. THIS INCIDENT UNDERSCORES THE ABIDING INABILITY OF AUTHORITIES TO DETECT THE EXACT SOURCES OF INCREASING VIOLENCE. MORE IMPORTANT, NEITHER HAS THE MUCH VAUNTED MILITARIZATION OF MEDELLIN YET SUCCEEDED IN DETERRING THESE APPALLING CRIMES.

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DECLASSON: MR

DOCPREC: O

DOCST: ACTIVE

DOCTYPE: IN

DOCUMENT\_ID: 166839286

DOR: 19900626

FROM: FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

GUIDE-UID: 1012/ejxnz

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ORIGIN:

PRODUCER: BOGOTA

RECEIPT DATE: 90 020610819900626194350

SOURCE-INFO: STATE IN O BOGOTA 10042 BOGOTA 199006262220

TAGS: TAGS: SNAR, PTER, PINS, PHUM, CO

TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6714

TOR: 194350

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4